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Shoreham-by-Sea
Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR
1947

BY
ROBERT HEYWOOD WILSHAW,
M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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Shoreham-by-Sea Urban District Council.

10, BULKINGTON AVENUE,
WORTHING.

June, 1948.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1947, which has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of Circular 170/47, issued by the Ministry of Health on the 31st December, 1947.

The rates for 1947 as compared with the average rate for the past ten years are as follows:—

	Average, 1937-46.	1947.
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	17.3	21.3
Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.8	11.2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000		
Births 	43	20

These rates have been calculated on the estimated resident population for the mid-year 1947, supplied to me by the Registrar General.

The various mortality rates of the district during the past year as compared with the corresponding rates for England and Wales and the urban and rural districts of West Sussex are shown in a comparative table on page 3.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT HEYWOOD WILSHAW.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Shoreham-by-Sea Urban District Council.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Shoreham is situate on the South Coast, midway between Brighton and Worthing. The River Adur, flowing down from Bramber to the South, bounds the town on its west side, and then winding under the Norfolk Bridge flows eastwards, until it again turns southwards to enter the sea through Shoreham Harbour mouth at Kingston. In this way the river cuts off from Shoreham Town the shingle beach south of the Adur, known as Shoreham Beach. This shingle beach is within the Urban District of Shoreham-by-Sea.

The town possesses a public recreation area, Buckingham Park, comprising 38 acres. It is situate at the foot of the Downs north of the town, and is used as a public park and pleasure ground, available for general sports and recreation purposes.

The chief industries in the town are a Soap Works, Jam Factory, Yacht Building, Chemical Works, Timber Yards, Laundries.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres), 3,093.

Resident Population (1947) estimated by Registrar General, 11,900.

Population (1931) Census, 8,757.

Rateable value (1947) £114,697.

Sum represented by 1d. rate, £467.

No. of inhabited houses end of 1947 according to rate books, 3,463.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births—Legitimate, total 237 (110 males, 127 females); illegitimate, 17 (8 males, 9 females). Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, 21.3.

Stillbirths, 4 (3 males, 1 female). Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 15.5.

Deaths, 133 (73 males, 60 females). Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 11.2.

Death from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child-birth: From sepsis, None. From other causes, None.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births, 20.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 17.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 59.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages), 26.

„ „ Measles (all ages), None.

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages), None.

„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age), One.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the past year.

Comparative Statistics.

			England and Wales.	West Sussex Urban.	Rural.	Shoreham U.D.
Birth Rate	...	...	20.5	17.6	19.2	21.3
Death Rate	...	...	12.0	15.2	12.2	11.2
Infantile Death Rate	...		41	30	33	20
Pulmonary Tuberculosis						
Death Rate	...	...	0.47	0.35	0.38	0.5
Zymotic Death Rate	...		—	0.06	0.08	0.08
Cancer Death Rate	...		1.85	2.5	1.9	2.2
Maternity Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	...		1.17	0.7	0.0	0.0
Scarlet Fever—Incidence Rate per 1,000 popu- lation	...	...	—	—	—	2.3
Diphtheria — Incidence Rate per 1,000 popu- lation	...	...	—	—	—	0.0
Enteric Fever—Incidence Rate per 1,000 popu- lation	...	...	—	—	—	0.0

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The causes of death and the ages of the five children who died under one year of age, are as follows:—

Cause of Death.				Age.	Sex.
1.	Broncho Pneumonia	...	...	6 months	M.
	Left Mastoiditis.				
	Hare Lip.				
2.	Prematurity	...	...	5 hours	M.
3.	Prematurity	...	...	1 day	F.
4.	Prematurity	...	...	1 week	F.
5.	Toxæmia and Dehydration	...	...	2 weeks	F.
	Consequent upon the condition of Enteritis (Post Mortem).				

SUMMARY (for reference) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS. HOSPITAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) General.

There is a local district Nursing Committee affiliated to the West Sussex County Nursing Association who employ four Queen's Nurses, all residing at the Nurses' Home, "Normanhurst," Buckingham Road.

In addition to ordinary district nursing and midwifery, the nurses carry out the County Council health services in connection with Tuberculosis, Maternity and Infant Welfare, and School Medical work.

(b) For Infectious Diseases.

The local district nurses visit, on behalf of the Sanitary Authority, all cases of Measles, Chickenpox, Whooping Cough, Mumps and Pneumonia, and render such nursing services as may be required.

Midwives.

There are five midwives practising in the district; four are the district nurses, the other one practices privately.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The West Sussex County Council conduct a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at the Shoreham Health Centre, Middle Road, every Thursday afternoon. The District Nurses conduct this centre, one of the local medical practitioners attending fortnightly. Tea is provided by ladies in the town. The West Sussex County Council also conduct an Ante-Natal Clinic at these premises—the Clinic being held fortnightly on Wednesdays, at 2.30 p.m.

Day Nurseries.

There is no day nursery in the district.

School Clinics.

School Clinics are held twice weekly, Monday and Friday afternoons at the Health Centre, to which all school children can be sent. A Medical Officer attends weekly.

Eye Clinics, Dental Clinics and Speech Therapy Clinics are held at the new Health Centre, Middle Road.

Children suffering from enlarged tonsils and adenoids are treated at the Brighton Throat and Ear Hospital, under arrangements made by the West Sussex County Education Committee.

Ear Clinics are held from time to time at the Sussex Throat and Ear Hospital, Brighton, and appointments are made for children suffering from ear diseases to attend.

Orthopædic Clinics are held at the Lancing Health Centre.

Tuberculosis.

The West Sussex County Council's Tuberculosis Clinic, held at the Worthing Hospital every Monday at 10.30 a.m., is available to the Residents of Shoreham. Appointments for first attendance should be made through the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Chichester.

Venereal Disease Clinics.

The West Sussex County Council's arrangements for Venereal Clinics are as follows and are available to the Residents of Shoreham:—Worthing Hospital, Wednesdays (women 2—4, men 4.30—5.30) and Fridays (women 3—5, men 5.30—6.30); or at the

Royal Portsmouth Hospital, for men on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., and for women on Mondays, 5—7 p.m., Wednesdays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Fridays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Venereal Clinics held at the County Hospital, Brighton, are also available.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or the County Council.

1.—TUBERCULOSIS.

(a) Aldingbourne House Sanatorium, near Chichester, the property of the West Sussex County Council (66 beds for adults).

(b) A Tuberculosis Ward (12 beds) at the Worthing Isolation Hospital, Swandean, Durrington, under the control of the West Sussex County Council.

(c) The West Sussex County Council send patients suffering from Surgical Tuberculosis to St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester, the Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital and College, Alton, Hants, the London Chest Hospital, and to the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate.

2.—MATERNITY.

The West Sussex County Council send cases to:—

- (1) The Sussex Maternity and Women's Hospital, 79—80 Buckingham Road, Brighton, for the reception of abnormal cases.
- (2) The East Sussex County Council for the reception of normal cases at Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea.
- (3) The Worthing Hospital for the reception of abnormal and other cases in the Maternity Home.
- (4) Zachary Merton Maternity Home, Rustington.
- (5) St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester (emergency cases only).

3.—CHILDREN.

The West Sussex County Council send cases to the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children, Brighton, and to Southlands Hospital, Shoreham.

4.—FEVER.

Sufferers from infectious diseases who cannot be isolated at home are removed to the Hove Isolation Hospital. Five beds are retained at an annual fee of £5 per bed and £3 3s. 0d. per week is paid when a bed is occupied. Ambulance charge is at the rate of ninepence per mile.

5.—SMALLPOX.

The West Sussex County Council have arranged for the isolation of cases of Smallpox at Brede Isolation Hospital, Rye, East Sussex.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) **Infectious Cases** are removed by the Hove Corporation Infectious Disease Ambulance.

(b) **Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.** The Southwick Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade operates in Shoreham for conveying illness and accident cases to hospital, etc.

Legislation in Force.

No Local Acts, Special Orders, General Adoptive Acts or By-laws relating to the public health have come into force during 1947.

LABORATORY WORK.

The following figures indicate the use that has been made of the facilities for the examination of pathological specimens.

		Total.	Positive.	Negative.
Throat Swabs (Diphtheria)	...	41	0	41
Throat Swabs (Hæmolytic Streptococci)	... ..	43	15	28
Fæces (Dysentery)	... ..	1	0	1

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Public Health Staff consists of the Medical Officer and the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. J. W. Thurman), who also acts as Sanitary Inspector to the New Shoreham Port Health Authority.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the total notifications received during the year.

				Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	...	...		27	13	—
Measles	...	...		34	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...		*3	3	—
Pneumonia	...	...		6	—	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis	...	...		2	2	1
Chickenpox	...	...		13	—	0
Whooping Cough	...	...		28	—	0
Erysipelas	...	...		1	—	0
Dysentery	...	...		1	—	0

*These three cases were in-patients at Southlands Hospital.

The above figures include notifications relating to Shoreham residents notified from Southlands Hospital but do not include notifications received from Southlands Hospital in respect of persons admitted from other districts, or persons who are on the nursing staff, or who are permanent inmates of the institution or in the Children's Homes. In respect of these, the following notifications were received:—

Pneumonia 14, Diphtheria 1, Puerperal Pyrexia 50, Measles 3, Cerebro-Spinal Fever 1, Ac. Poliomyelitis 1, Scarlet Fever 1.

Scarlet Fever.

The twenty-seven cases of Scarlet Fever occurred during the year as follows:—

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	July	Nov.	Dec.
1	4	3	1	3	9	6

Poliomyelitis.

Three cases of Ac. Poliomyelitis occurred during the year. The first case, a female, aged 42, was admitted to Southlands Hospital in January and died on the day of notification. The second case, a boy, aged 5, was admitted to Brighton Isolation Hospital during August, and was discharged a fortnight later as an abortive case with no paralysis. The third case, a boy, aged 12, was an inmate of the Children's Homes, and was admitted to Brighton Isolation Hospital at the end of December.

Diphtheria.

No case of Diphtheria was notified during the year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified during the year.

NOTE.—The ages of all the cases notified were as follows :—

	Under 1 Year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	1	1	17	4	2	2	1	—	—
Measles	...	1	3	5	3	7	15	—	1	2	—	—
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	6	6	2
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	43	6	2	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	—	1	5	3	6	13	—	—	—	—	—
Chickenpox	...	—	—	2	1	2	6	1	—	1	—	—
Dysentery	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Diphtheria Immunisation has again been carried out during the year by the County Council. At the end of the year the position was as follows :—

	Estimated population mid-year 1947	Total number of children immunised
Under 5 years of age ...	1070	407
5-14 years of age ...	1660	1114

In addition, 104 children received a third reinforcing dose during the year.

Scabies.

During the year, 14 cases of Scabies were brought to the notice of the Health Department, namely :—

7 Adults.

5 School children.

2 Children under school age.

All cases were treated with Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion with satisfactory results. Clothes and bedding were disinfected by washing or hot ironing.

TUBERCULOSIS.—New Cases and Mortality, 1947.

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
10	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	5	1	3	3	4	2	—	—

No person died from Tuberculosis who had not been notified in the district during life.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1925.

It has not been necessary to serve any notice under these Regulations, which prevent persons suffering from Tuberculosis taking part in the production of Milk.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. Section 172.

No action has had to be taken by the Council under this Section, which gives power to Sanitary Authorities to apply in special cases for a Magistrate's Order for the removal of Tuberculous persons to an institution for isolation.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

(1) Water.

There is an abundant supply of pure water from the Brighton Corporation. The supply is constant and all the houses in the area are served direct. The water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action. Two samples were sent for bacteriological examination during the year and were found to be satisfactory.

Extensions of public water supplies during the year:—

706 yards of 4in. pipe.

24 yards of 3in. pipe.

(2) Public Scavenging.

(a) House refuse.

House refuse is removed weekly by the Council with direct labour. The refuse is disposed of by the controlled tipping method and is collected in a mechanical freighter.

(b) Sewers.

Extension of sewers during the year:—

700 feet of 9in. sewer }
250 feet of 6in. sewer } Stoney Lane Housing Estate.

(c) Cesspools.

Cesspools and septic tanks situate in areas where sewers are not available are emptied by the Council with a Bexley cart, and the sewage disposed of at the sewage works. A charge is made for this service in certain defined areas.

Rivers and Streams.

It has not been necessary to take any action to check the pollution of the river.

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1947.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

Name of Parish	Total	Private Enterprise	With State Assistance under Housing Acts	
			By the Local Authority	By other bodies or persons
Shoreham-by-Sea ...	12	12	—	—
Kingston-by-Sea ...	58	15	43	—
	70	27	43	—

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	289
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1033
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	36
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	188
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	120

2.—Remedies of defects during the year without service of formal notice :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	148
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—**A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	2

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	0

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 0

E.—Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding—

(a) i. No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	8
ii. No. of families dwelling therein	12
iii. No. of persons dwelling therein	57
(b) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	17
(c) i. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	13
ii. No. of persons concerned in such cases ...	120

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply, Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

No. of Dairymen (Cowkeepers and Milk Sellers, etc.) in the District	...	...	...	...	6
No. of these registered as Wholesalers only	...				2
No. of these registered as Retailers only	...	...			4
No. of these registered both as Wholesalers and Retailers	..	...	...	...	0
No. registered to sell milk from premises in other districts	...	...	...	...	1

No. of Inspections made:—

(1) Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	22
(2) Milkshops	...	...	...	...	21
Inspections during milking	...	...	...	...	17
No. of contraventions of the Regulations found	...				nil

All cowsheds and milkshops in the District are supplied with water from the public main.

Licenses.

Licenses granted by the County Council:—

(1) To produce Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	nil
(2) To produce Accredited Milk	...	...	...	2

Licenses granted by the Local Authority:—

To retail milk using the designation:—

(a) Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	5
(b) Accredited	...	...	...	0
(c) Pasteurised	3

Legal Proceedings.

No. of summonses issued under the Regulations	nil
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Bacteriological Samples of Milk.

	No. of samples taken		No. complying	No. failing to
	By County Council.	By Sanitary Authority.	with standard.	comply with standard.
Tuberculin Tested	—	0	—	—
Accredited	... 17	0	8	9
Pasteurised	... 51	0	19	32
Ordinary	... —	0	—	—

Meat and other Foods.

No. of inspections of slaughterhouses	...	...	...	1
No. of inspections of butchers' shops	...	...	...	63
No. of inspections of vehicles or carts	...	...	...	10
No. of inspections of other food stores	...	...	...	113

Bakehouses.

No. in the district	...	...	...	...	2
No. underground	...	...	...	...	0
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	5
No. of contraventions found	...	...	...	...	0

Shell Fish.

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

Condemned Foods.

The following foods have been condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

Grapefruit pulp	... 642 lbs.	Sugar	... 34 lbs.
Orange pulp	... 475 lbs.	Canned vegetables	... 210 lbs.
Butchers' meat	... 250 lbs.	,, meat	... 141 lbs.
Wet fish	... 378 stones	,, milk	... 90 lbs.
Oysters	... 100	,, fruit	... 18 lbs.
Escallops	... 72	,, fish	... 18 lbs.
Preserves	... 84 lbs.	Sundry foods	... 93 lbs.

Shops Act.

No. of shops in the district	...	...	...	...	224
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	8
No. of defects found	...	...	...	...	0
No. of defects remedied	...	...	...	...	0

No applications were made under Section 10 (6) for exemption certificates.

Factories' Act, 1937.**1.—Inspections.**

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	41	29	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	28	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	3	—	—
Total	77	60	4	—

2.—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	3	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes...	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5	3	—	—	—

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	92
No. of contraventions observed (camping on unlicensed site)	...	...	...	...	...	6

Camping Sites.

No. of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1947	...	...	...	...	9
No. of camping sites in respect of which licenses have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	3
Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1947					20

Smoke Abatement.

No. of observations made	...	...	...	...	92
No. of notices served	...	...	...	...	2
No. of nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	2

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

1. No. of Council Houses—					
(a) Found to be infested	...	...	...	...	0
(b) Disinfested	...	...	...	...	0
2. No. of other houses—					
(a) Found to be infested	...	...	...	...	3
(b) Disinfested	...	...	...	...	3

Infested houses are gassed with Hydrogen Cyanide or Sulphur or treated with liquid insecticides, according to circumstances.

The houses and furniture of prospective tenants of Council Houses are examined for the presence of vermin, and, if necessary, are treated as above.

Disinfestation by Hydrogen Cyanide is carried out by contractors.

Schools.

No. of schools in the district	...	...	...	...	6
No. with public water supply	...	...	...	...	6
No. with water closets—					
(a) Separate pedestal	...	...	...	...	4
(b) Trough	...	...	...	...	2

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

86 complaints have been received in respect of rats and mice, and 1,320 visits have been made to 168 premises. The work of rodent destruction is carried out in accordance with the procedure recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and a part-time Rodent Operator is engaged on this work in suitable instances. An estimated number of 1,940 rats have been destroyed during these operations which have included thorough treatment of the Council's refuse tip. A free service is given to the occupiers of private dwelling-houses. Test baiting of 10% of the Council's sewers has been carried out as a preliminary to sewer rat treatment No. 2.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK AND IMPROVEMENTS.**Defects remedied and nuisances abated.**

Rooms renovated	...	...	...	...	...	16
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	22
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	25
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	14
Damp walls treated	...	...	...	...	...	11
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Firegates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	7
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Water pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sinks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Spouting repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	13
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	41
Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	3

Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	53
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cesspools repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	1
W.C's. provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
W.C's. provided with cisterns	...	...	...	...	...	1
W.C's. repaired	...	...	...	...	...	28
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	48
Smoke and dust	2
Overcrowding abated	13
Tents, vans and sheds	4
Miscellaneous	21

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No. of inspections in regard to Infectious Disease	194
No. of premises disinfected after Infectious Disease	32
No. of verminous premises de-infested	...	...	...	...	...	11
Total number of inspections for all purposes	...	...	...	...	...	3571
Total number of notices served:—						
Informal	...	...	...	...	...	190
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	11
Total number of summonses issued	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of convictions obtained	...	...	...	...	...	1
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	417
Complaints found justified and dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	390

